

1. (currently amended) A method for isolating paint with a non-conductive oxide constituent from a conductive surface to facilitate cleaning thereof, comprising the steps of:

providing a conductive, primer coat having up to 80% finely divided conductive material by volume dispersed in a combustible, hardening base; [[and]]

applying the conductive primer coat to the conductive surface and allowing the base to harden [in preparation for application of]

applying a paint having a non-conductive oxide constituent over the primer coat and allowing the paint coat to harden; and

removing the paint and non-conductive oxide constituent, together with the combustible base primer coat, so as to provide a clean conductive surface for application of another primer coating.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the finely divided conductive material is carbon.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the conductive primer coating is applied to the conductive surface by spray painting.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the conductive primer is applied to the conductive surface by powder coating.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 [and further comprising] wherein the step of removing is implemented by[[:]] burning-off [the paint and non-conductive oxide constituent, together with the combustible base primer coat, so as to provide a clean conductive surface for application of another primer coating].

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 and further comprising the step of [[:]] removing is implemented chemically [removing the paint and non-conductive oxide constituent, together with the conductive primer coating, so as to provide a clean conductive surface for application of another primer coating].

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 and further comprising the step of [[:]] removing is implemented mechanically [removing the paint and non-conductive oxide constituent, together with the conductive primer coating, so as to provide a clean conductive surface for application of another conductive primer coating].

8. (original) A method for isolating paint with a non-conductive oxide constituent from product support hooks, as used for electrostatic painting, comprising the steps of:

providing a conductive primer paint having up to approximately 80% by volume of a finely divided conductive material dispersed in a hardening, combustible base;

applying the conductive primer coating to the product support hooks and allowing the base to harden;

attaching product units to the product support hooks for painting;

grounding the product support hooks, so that electrical continuity is established through the conductive primer to the product units;

providing electrostatically charged paint having a non-conductive oxide constituent; and

electrostatically attracting the charged paint to the grounded product units and the conductive primer coating of the product support hooks, so as to paint the product units, thereby also depositing paint on the conductive primer coating.

9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the finely divided conductive material is carbon.

10. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the conductive primer coating is applied to the conductive surface by spray painting.

11. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the conductive primer is applied to the conductive surface by powder coating.

12. (original) The method of claim 8 and further comprising the step of:

burning-off the paint and non-conductive oxide constituent, together with the combustible base primer coating, from the support hooks, so as to provide a clean conductive surface for application of another primer coating.

13. (original) The method of claim 8 and further comprising the step of:

chemically removing the non-conductive oxide bearing paint, together with the primer coat, from the support hooks, so as to provide a clean conductive surface for application of another primer coating.

14. (original) The method of claim 8 and further comprising the step of:

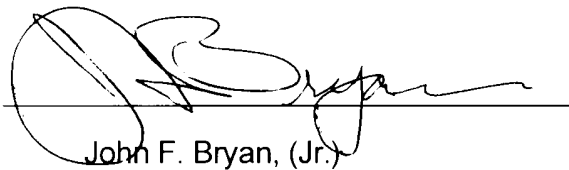
mechanically removing the paint and non-conductive oxide constituent, together with the base coat, from the support hooks, so as to provide a clean conductive surface for application of another primer coating.

15. (original) The method of claim 8 and further comprising the step of:

manually removing the paint and non-conductive oxide constituent, together with the base coat, from the support hooks, so as to provide a clean conductive surface for application of another primer coating.

Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, now clearly distinguish the invention over the prior art and respectfully represents the claims to be in condition for allowance. Applicant requests that the amended claims now be reconsidered and allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



John F. Bryan, (Jr.)

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date

Registration No, 33,320

P.O. Box 1987

Plano, TX 75086

Phone: (972) 442-7124

FAX (972) 442-1022